ORIGINAL



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GARY PIERCE

PAUL NEWMAN

BRENDA BURNS

GENERIC

OF

BOB STUMP

CHAIRMAN

SANDRA D. KENNEDY

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

AND THEIR AFFILIATES.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S **EVALUATION**

REGULATORY IMPACTS FROM THE USE

ARRANGEMENTS BY WATER UTILITIES

NON-TRADITIONAL

OF

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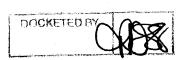
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Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

NOV 8 2011



Docket No. W-00000C-06-0149

RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CONSUMER OFFICE'S

THE

FINANCING

COMMENTS

After the Commission's workshop on periodic generalized cost of equity information that was conducted on June 16, 2011, the Residential Utility Consumer Office provided the Commission with a copy of The Value Line Investment Survey's ("Value Line") April 22, 2011 quarterly update on the water utility industry. Attached for your information is a copy of Value Line's most recent quarterly update on the water utility industry dated October 21, 2011.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 8th day of November, 2011

Daniel W. Pozefsky

Chief Counsel

1 2	of the foregoing filed this 8 th day of November, 2011 with:	
3	Docket Control	
4	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington	
	Phoenix, Arizona 85007	
5	COPIES of the foregoing hand delivered/	
6	mailed this 8 th day of November, 2011 to:	
7		
8.	Lyn Farmer Chief Administrative Law Judge	Michelle Van Quathem Ryley Carlock & Applewhite
0	Hearing Division	One North Central, suite 1200
9	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington	Phoenix, AZ 85004-4417
10	Phoenix, Arizona 85007	Graham Symmonds 21410 N. 19 th Avenue, Suite 201
11	Janice Alward, Chief Counsel	Phoenix, AZ 85027
12	Charles Haines, Esq. Legal Division	Garry Hays
13	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington	Law Offices of Garry D. Hays PC 1702 E. Highland Avenue, Suite 204
	Phoenix, Arizona 85007	Phoenix, AZ 85016
14	Steven M. Olea, Director	Timothy Sabo
15	Utilities Division Arizona Corporation Commission	Roshka, DeWulf & Patten, PLC One Arizona Center
16	1200 West Washington	400 E. Van Buren Street, Suite 800
17	Phoenix, Arizona 85007	Phoenix, AZ 85004
18	Thomas H. Campbell Michael T. Hallam	Court S. Rich, Esq. Rose Law Group PC
	Lewis and Roca LLP	6613 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 200
19	40 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004	Scottsdale, AZ 85250
20		Bryan O'Reilly
21	Thomas M. Broderick Director, Rates & Regulation	SNR Management, LLC 50 South Jones Blvd., Suite 1
22	American Water 2355 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Suite 300	Las Vegas, NV 89107
	Phoenix, AZ 85027	Joseph Harris
23		Arizona Water Company P. O. Bo 29006
24		Phoenix AZ 85038-9006

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21	
22	

- 1	Brian Tompsett
	Johnson Utilities L.L.C.
2	5230 E. Shea Boulevard
	Suite 200
3	Scottsdale, AZ 85254-5750
-	Jeffrey W. Crockett, Esq.
	Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
•	40 North Central Avenue, 14 th floor
	Phoenix, AZ 85004
•	
.	
	9
•	By Ornestine Samble
	Ernestine Gamble
' ·	Emesune Gamble

VALUE LINE'S OCTOBER 21, 2011 QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Water Utility Industry looks to be back in vogue. Although the broader market averages have been extremely volatile, giving back significant ground since our July report, the stocks in this group have held up relatively well. Wall Street has, as is typical in times of economic uncertainty, poured money into these issues, opting for their perceived safety and steady dividends.

With the U.S. economy filled with uncertainty, the group is likely to remain in the upper echelon of The Value Line Investment community in terms of relative price performance for the coming six to 12 months. Indeed, fears of a new recession will probably continue to hang over the stock market, painting a favorable picture for water providers. There are a few stocks that are ranked favorably for Timeliness. That said, most of the issues in this space lose their allure looking further out. Growing earnings will be a tough task for just about all of the utilities in this group due to the rising costs of doing business associated with delivering water to the people. Although current dividend yields may pique the interest of those seeking to add an income producer to their fold, there are better options elsewhere.

Undeniable Demand

Without question, water is a necessity; so, too, is the need for water providers. The safe and timely delivery of water to millions of people every day is important. A growing population only creates a more favorable backdrop looking ahead.

But with great power comes great responsibility. Recognizing the importance and difficulties of maintaining water quality, the government holds utilities up to high standards. Aside from the EPA, operators have to answer to state regulatory boards, which are also responsible for, among other things, keeping the balance of power between providers and customers. They are asked to, among other things, review and rule on general rate case requests submitted by providers looking to recover costs incurred during distribution. Their decisions have become critical, as the costs of water production have swelled. Although they have long sided with consumers, regulators appear to have taken on a more business-friendly attitude of late.

Insatiable Burdens

But while providers are looking to build new pipelines

Composite Statistics: Water Utility Industry										
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		14-16			
3777.9	4004.3	4228.9	4614.5	4850	5150	Revenues (\$mill)	6075			
d157.5	d369.0	d33.5	499.3	575	625	Net Profit (\$mill)	775			
NMF	NMF	NMF	40.0%	39.0%	39.0%	Income Tax Rate	39.0%			
NMF	1.5%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	2.0%	AFUDC % to Net Profit	7.0%			
50.9%	52.1%	55.1%	55.3%	55.0%	53.0%	Long-Term Debt Ratio	52.0%			
49.1%	47.9%	44.9%	54.7%	45.0%	47.0%	Common Equity Ratio	48.0%			
13134.6	12795.2	14011.9	14720.8	15075	15400	Total Capital (\$mill)	16450			
14542.8	15611.0	15910.8	17869.0	18550	18950	Net Plant (\$mill)	21700			
.4%	4.5%	4.4%	4.9%	5.5%	6.0%	Return on Total Cap'l	8.0%			
NMF	6.1%	6.5%	7.7%	8.5%	9.0%	Return on Shr. Equity	9.5%			
NMF	6.1%	6.5%	7.7%	8.5%	9.0%	Return on Com Equity	9.5%			
NMF	3.0%	2.1%	3.1%	3.5%	4.0%	Retained to Com Eq	4.5%			
NMF	51%	68%	60%	56%	55%	All Div'ds to Net Prof	53%			
NMF	20.7	19.3	17.3			Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio	21.0			
NMF	1.25	1.29	1.10	Valu	gures are e Line	Relative P/E Ratio	1.40			
2.3%	2.5%	3.5%	3.4%	estimates		Avg Ann'l Div'd Yield	2.6%			

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 8 (of 98)

in order to expand their footprints and their customer bases, they are also juggling maintaining aging infrastructures. Indeed, most systems are old and in need of significant repairs, if not complete overhauls. These costs have escalated into the hundreds of millions of dollars and are expected to remain on an upward trajectory. Although more favorable regulatory backing helps support some of the burden, the expenses related to doing business present a bit of a problem in terms of earnings growth rates looking ahead.

Tight Finances

Another thing that stands out when examining the companies in this space is their balance sheets. Most utilities are strapped for cash and are debt ridden. Outside financing has become commonplace for many, and that is not likely to change, given the dynamics of the industry. Even if it does, the lack of financial flexibility of most here precludes them from taking advantage of fragmentation within the sector and from throwing their hats in the acquisition ring.

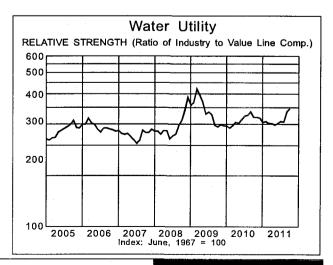
Conclusion

Interest in the Water Utility Industry has definitely picked up in recent months and will likely continue to do so if signs of another recession do not relinquish. *American States Water* and *American Water Works* are both riding the wave of this intrigue, and are each now ranked 1 (Highest) for Timeliness.

However, those looking to dip their toe in the Water Utility group, ought to note that relative price appreciation potential is not something this industry is known for. In fact, growth potential typically lags that of the average stock in our *Survey*, due to the capital-intensive nature of the field.

Dividend growth on the other hand has been synonymous with those operating here. That said, prospective investors should keep in mind the industry's capital restraints and potentially lower yields going further out. Either way, there are better streams of income to be had in the Electric Utility Industry. As always, we advise investors to take a more in-depth look at the stocks before making a commitment.

Andre J. Costanza



AM	ERI	CAN	WAT	[ER	NYSE-	AWK	ļ.	RECENT PRICE	30.0	B P/E RATIO	16.	9 (Trail Medi	ing: 18.3 ian: NMF	RELATIV P/E RATI	5 1.2	3 DIV'D	3.1		ALUI LINE	3	
TIMELII	VESS	1 Raised	10/7/11									High: Low:	23.7 16.5	23.0 16.2	25.8 19.4	31.0 25.2				Price	
SAFETY	<i>!</i>	3 New 7/2	5/08	LEGE	NDS elative Pric	e Strength												1	2014	2015	1
		3 Lowered	8/26/11	1 Options:	Yes	cate recess	sions														-80
		= Market)	ONIC																		+60 +50
		ROJECTI	nn'i Total		 				1												+40
ligh .ow	Price 50 (Gain (+65%)	Return 16% 7%										.1111		1111111111111	111111111 •					+30 +25
	35 (r Decis	(+15%) sions	7%	-									1444	Hillin.,	.,11111.						+20 15
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sel nstitu		0 1 0 Decisio		1										٠				% TOT. RETURN 9/11			-/ .5
	4Q2010	1Q2011	2Q2011	Percen										النبط	••••	,		THIS VLARITH STOCK INDEX 1 yr. 34.1 -4.8		INDEX	-
o Buy o Sell	145 119	117	138 145	shares traded	14 - 7 -			ļ					11					3 yr.	57.4	25.0	F
1995	145430 1996		145042 1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	5 yr. © VALU	E LINE PU	16.6 JB. LLC I	14-1
											13.08	13.84	14.61	13.98	15.49	15.85	16.55	Revenue			17.
											.65	d.47	2.87	2.89	3.56	3.70	3.90	"Cash Fl	ow" per s		4.
		1		::		- :			::		d.97	d2.14	1.10	1.25	1.53 .86	1.75 .91	1.90 .96	Earnings Div'd Dec			2. 1.
						-:-					4.31	4.74	6.31	4.50	4.38	4.35	4.50	Cap'l Spe			4.
											23.86	28.39	25.64	22.91	23.59	24.50	24.05	Book Val	ue per sh	ם	24.
											160.00	160.00	160.00 18.9	174.63 15.6	175.00 14.6	178.00	181.00	Common Avg Ann'			190.0
			::										1.14	1.04	.94	Bold fig Value	Line	Relative			19 1.:
	٠	••											1.9%	4.2%	3.8%	estim	ates	Avg Ann'	l Div'd Yi	eld	2.89
		JCTURE			O:II						2093.1	2214.2	2336.9	2440.7	2710.7	2820		Revenue			350
T Debt	\$5362.	21.0 mill. I 6 mill.	T Interes								d155.8	d342.3	187.2 37.4%	209.9 37.9%	267.8 40.4%	310 39.0%		Net Profit Income T			38.09
Total in	terest c	overage: :	2.6x)	(56% o	f Cap'l)									12.5%	10.0%	10.0%		AFUDC %		rofit	15.0
		italized:			7 mill.						56.1%	50.9%	53.1%	56.9%	56.8%	56.5%		Long-Ten			56.5
ensior	ı Asset	s-12/10 \$		285.5 mill							43.9% 8692.8	49.1% 9245.7	46.9% 8750.2	43.1% 9289.0	43.2% 9561.3	43.5% 9800		Common Total Cap			43.5°
fd Sto	ck \$27.8		ofd Div'd								8720.6	9318.0	9991.8	10524	11059	11450		Net Plant		"	1315
Commo	n Stock	k 175,445	,661 shs.					••		••	NMF	NMF	3.7%	3.8%	4.4%	4.5%		Return or			5.59
s of 7/2	28/11										NMF NMF	NMF NMF	4.6% 4.6%	5.2% 5.2%	6.5% 6.5%	7.5% 7.5%		Return or Return or		- 1	9.09
MARKE	T CAP:	\$5.3 billi	on (Large	e Cap)							NMF	NMF	3.0%	1.8%	2.8%	3.5%		Retained			4.5
URRE (\$MIL	NT POS	SITION	2009	2010	6/30/11								34%	65%	56%	52%	51%	All Div'ds	to Net Pi	rof	519
ash A	ssets		22.3	13.1 521.2	13.5 1479.7				ater Wor									of revenu			
Current Assets 499.1 534.3 1493.2 services to over							ed water and wastewater utility in the U.S., providing ver 15 million people in over 30 states and Canada. Its														
Accts Payable 138.6 199.2 159.0 nonregulated Debt Due 173.6 44.8 458.4 with the main						ulated b	business assists municipalities and military bases					 President & CEO; Jeffry Sterba. Chairman; George Mackenzie. 									
Other 295.2 530.5 710.2 Will the main							intenance and upkeep as well. Regulated operations ver 89% of 2010 revenues. New Jersey is its biggest														
	Liab. g. Cov.			774.5 237%	250%		·		er Wo			•							nt su	ccess	has
ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '08-'10 differen						erent	these	days	. In li	ine w	ith its	ag-	Americans' pockets, the recent success has us optimistic that more favorable rulings								
							M&A strategy, it recently in-					are in the works. As a result, we now look									
"Cash Flow" 5.0% Creased							its presence in Missouri and Ohio, elling operations in Texas, Arizona,					for 18% earnings growth in 2011. The stock has held firm since our last									
Dividends 8.0% and Nev													report despite the broader marker								
Book Value Nil announc						unced	l tha	t it v	vill p	urcha			sello	ff. AW	/Ƙ is	bene	fiting	not o	nly f	ron	
Cal- QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full water systems in New York. its strong recent showing, but also the									pe:												

Year

2336.9

2440.7

2710.7

3000

Year

1.25

1.53 1.75

1.90

Full

.82 .86

568.5

597.8

664.5

724.9

760

.21

.23

.20

.21

But it's been business as usual for the water utility. The company posted 10% share-net growth in the second quarter, on a 6% top-line advance. (It should be noted that the latest batch of results accounts for the aforementioned alterations to the business model, but the prior year's figures do not because we do not restate past results.) An improved regulatory environment was largely responsible, as AWR received a rate case ruling generating another \$10.7 million in annual revenues.

We have raised our earnings estimate for this year and next to account for ongoing momentum on the regulatory front. The company has since received another \$4.8 million ruling, and has an additional \$315 million or so in cases under review. Although we do not expect all of the money being sought to make its way to

its strong recent showing, but also the perception that it is a safe haven during times of economic instability. The market has been extremely volatile, with wide swings from day to day, and fears of another recession have many on Wall Street looking to park their money until there are signs of stability. Given the murky economic outlook, we award this issue with our Highest (1) ranking for the coming six to 12 months.

The allure fades a bit looking further out, however. The costs of fixing and maintain aging water systems will remain on the rise, and will likely eat away at a healthy portion of the profits enjoyed from any regulatory benefits. Although the dividend is healthy, income-minded investors have better alternatives to choose from in the electric utility industry. Andre J. Costanza October 21, 2011

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gains (losses): '08, (\$4.62); '09, (\$2.63). Discontinued operations: '06, (4¢); '11, 9¢.

Next earnings report due early Nov. Quarterly

.20

Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B.

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

589.4

612.7

671.2

730

.32

.42 .46

.50

672 2

680.0

786.9

865

.52

.71

.78

.84

.20 .21 .22

endar

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

Cal-

endar

2008 2009

2010

2011

2012

Cal-

endar

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

506.8

550.2

588.1

.04 .19

.18

.24

.27

.20 .21

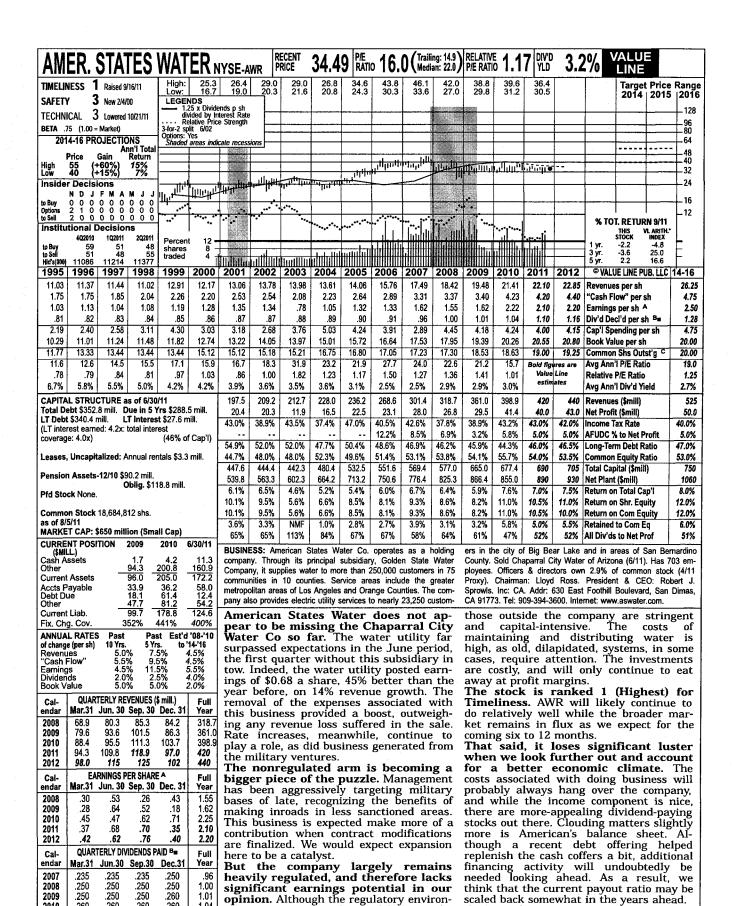
earnings may not sum due to rounding.
(B) Dividends to be paid in February, May, August, and November. ■ Div. reinvestment avail-

(D) Includes intangibles. In 2010: \$1.251 billion, \$7.15/share.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability В 90 NMF Price Growth Persistence Earnings Predictability

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280 .280 (A) Primary earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gains/(losses): '04, 14¢; '05, 25¢; '06, 6¢; '08, (27¢); '10, (44¢) '11, 20¢. Next earnings report due early November. Quarterly egs. may not

.250

.250

.260

1.01

2009

.250

.260

add due to rounding.
(B) Dividends historically paid in early March,
June, September, and December. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan available.

ment is improving, the guidelines set by

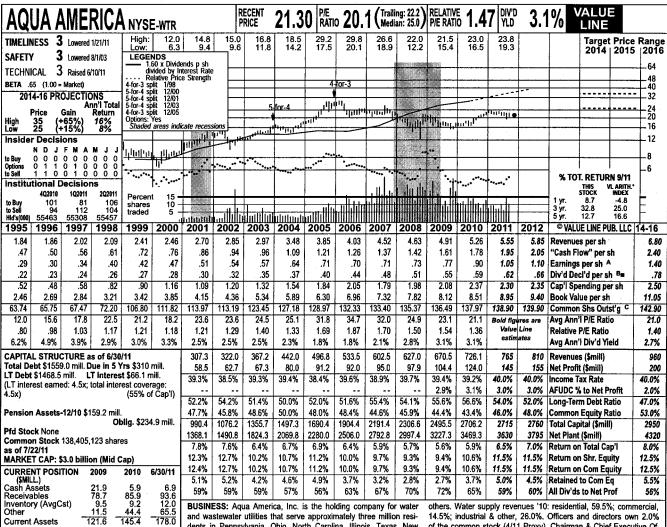
(C) In millions, adjusted for split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

scaled back somewhat in the years ahead.

Andre J. Costanza

October 21, 2011



ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '08-'10 8.0% 8.5% 6.5% 7.5% of change (per sh) Revenues 5 Yrs. 7.5% to '14-'16 6.5% 8.0% 4.5% 8.0% 7.0% 8.0% 10.5% 5.5% 6.0% 'Cash Flow' Earnings Dividends Book Value

57.9 87.0 56.1

201.0

346%

45.3 28.5 149.9

223.7

290%

42.7 90.5

306.9

340%

Accts Payable Debt Due Other

Current Liab.

Fix. Chg. Cov.

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	139.3	151.0	177.1	159.6	627.0
2009	154.5	167.3	180.8	167.9	670.5
2010	160.5	178.5	207.8	179.3	726.1
2011	171.3	188.2	220	185.5	765
2012	180	200	230	200	810
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.11	.17	.26	.19	.73
2009	.14	.19	.25	.19	.77
2010	.16	.22	.32	.20	.90
2011	.19	.25	.32	.29	1.05
2012	.20	.25	.37	.28	1.10
Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2007	.115	.115	.125	.125	.48
2008	.125	.125	.125	.135	.51
2009	.135	.135	.135	.145	.55
2010	.145	.145	.145	.155	.59
2011	.155	.155	.155		

(B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd. reinvestment plan available (5% discount).
(C) In millions, adjusted for stock splits. (A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '99, (11¢); '00, 2¢; '01, 2¢; '02, 5¢; '03, 4¢. Excl. gain from disc. operations: '96, 2¢. Next earnings report due late October.

dents in Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey, Florida, Indiana, and five other states. Divested three of four non-water businesses in '91; telemarketing group in '93; and others. Acquired AquaSource, 7/03; Consumers Water, 4/99; and

Aqua America should end 2011 on a strong note. Favorable rate rulings, along with stronger-than-expected consumer demand, are slated to be the key drivers of top- and bottom-line growth.

The company entered into a joint venture with MLP Penn Virginia Resource Partners, to construct and operate a fresh water pipeline. The project will be supplying water to natural gas producers in the Lycoming County, PA, area of the Marcellus Shale. The joint venture has been named PVR Water Services, with a \$12 million initial stake from each partner. Range Resources has been contracted as the first customer. The pipeline is anticipated to be operational by the beginning of 2012, though no solid end date has been given. We believe that this project is one of many steps the company is taking to establish itself as a major beneficiary of the Marcellus Shale project. As a result, there should be a significant boost to revenues and earnings as the company's customer base expands.

Rate rulings are still on the agenda. The company received several favorable rate rulings last year, and is currently

of the common stock (4/11 Proxy). Chairman & Chief Executive Officer: Nicholas DeBenedictis. Incorporated: Pennsylvania. Address: 762 West Lancaster Avenue, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010. Telephone: 610-525-1400. Internet: www.aquaamerica.com.

planning on filing cases in seven more jurisdictions by the yearend. Given Aqua America's track record, these rulings will likely contribute to revenue and earnings from 2012 onward.

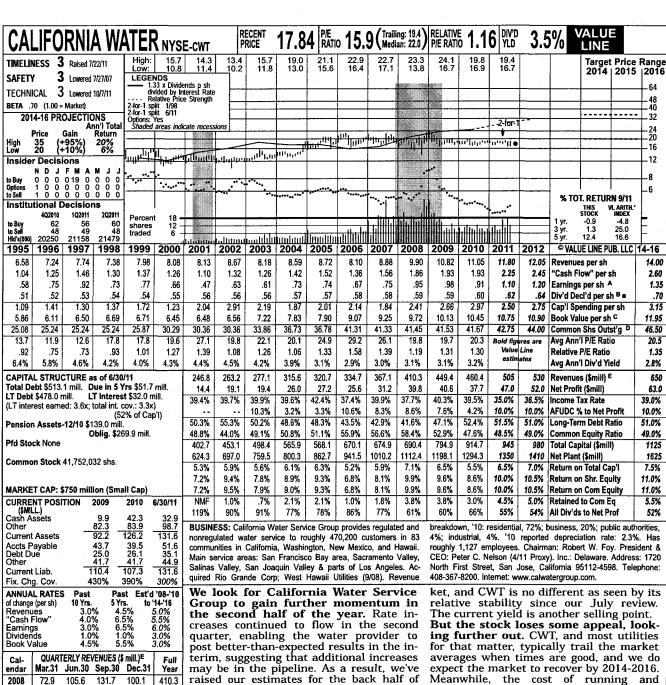
Aqua America is getting out of some markets. Management's plan to exit several difficult operating environments is progressing smoothly. To this end, it sold its Maine operations (consisting of 11 water systems) to Connecticut Water, for \$53.5 million, in the second quarter. The company also announced another deal with American Water Works (it swapped its Missouri properties in the first quarter for American Water's Texas operations.) Also, Aqua America will be swapping its New York properties to American Water in exchange for the latter's Ohio facilities. Both deals are slated to expand its customer base in fast-growing sectors, while getting Aqua America out from its underperforming areas. The deals should be done by the end of this year or 2012's first

quarter. This equity has an above industry average yield, for income investors.

Sahana Zutshi

October 2 October 21, 2011

> Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence B+ 100 70 Earnings Predictability 100



may be in the pipeline. As a result, we've raised our estimates for the back half of the year, and look for healthy top- and bottom-line growth.

There could be some more good news on the horizon, too. CWT recently filed its cost of capital application in an attempt to increase its return on equity a full percentage point, to 11.25%. The regulatory process is unpredictable, but the recent climate appears to have warmed for utilities, particularly in the Golden State. If a favorable decision is handed down by yearend, as expected, this would likely force us to bump up our current 2012 estimates.

Now may be a good time for many seeking to avoid getting caught up in the recent market volatility to consider initiating a position here. Water utility stocks are generally less susceptible to wild price swings than the broad mar-

expect the market to recover by 2014-2016. Meanwhile, the cost of running and maintaining a water utility services plant, and all the pipelines and wells that go with it, is a very expensive undertaking. Federal and state requirements are extremely stringent, and systems are growing older by the day. Many require significant upkeep and, in some cases, complete overhauls. These costs are not likely to subside anytime soon, creating some problems for CWT on the cost side of ledger. Indeed, these expenses, along with any necessary capital requirements, will likely temper earnings advances out to mid-decade and thereafter. While the dividend is certainly a plus, CWT still lacks relative total-return potential, and there are better income vehicles on the market, especially in the Electric Utility industry. Andre J. Costanza October 21, 2011

(A) Basic EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (loss): '00, (4¢); '01, 2¢; '02, 4¢. Next earnings report

.148

.149

.154

2009

2010

2011

2012 103

Cal-

endar

2008

2009

2010

2012

Cal-

endar

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

86.6

90.3

98 1

.01

.06

.05

.05

Mar.31

.145

.148

.149

.154

116.7

118.3

131.4

135

.29

.25

.29

.32

139.2

146.3

160.5

170

.53

.47

49

.59

.62

Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

.148

.149

.154

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B .

106.9

105.5

115

122

.17

.16

.12

.17

.19

.145 147

.148

.149

449 4

460.4

505

530

Full Year

98

1.20

.59

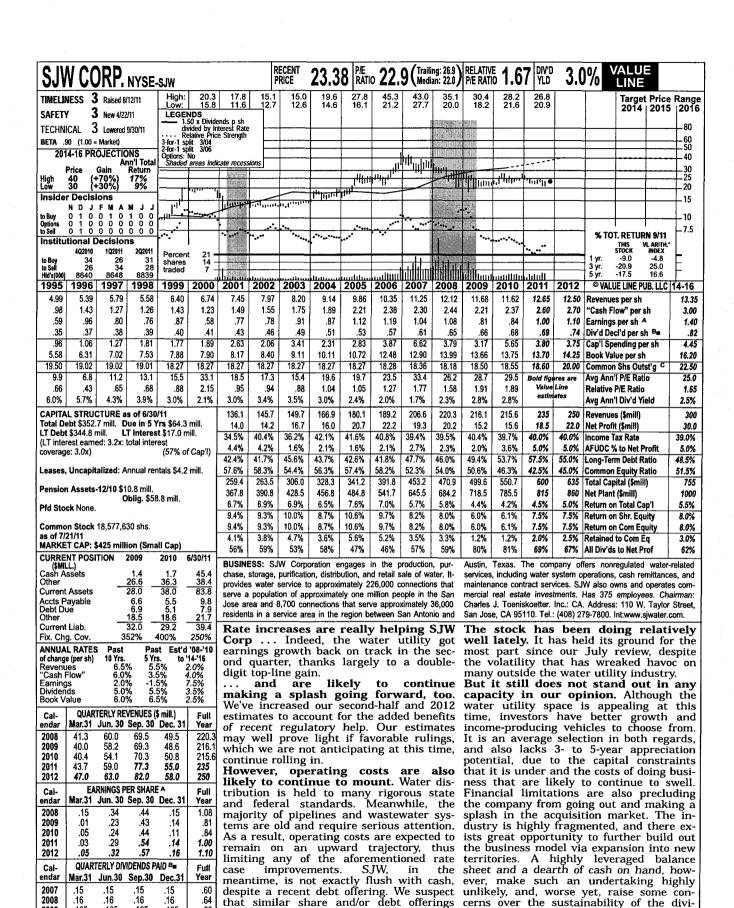
.60

(B) Dividends historically paid in early Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan

(C) Incl. deferred charges. in '10: \$2.2 mill., \$0.05/sh.
(D) In millions, adjusted for splits.

(E) Excludes non-reg. rev.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ Price Growth Persistence 60 Earnings Predictability



(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring losses: '03, \$1.97; '04, \$3.78; '05, \$1.09; '06, \$16.36; '08, \$1.22; '10, 46¢. Next earnings report due late Oct. Quarterly egs. may not add

.165

.165

.165

.66

2009

2010

.165

due to rounding.

(B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, September, and December. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan available.

(C) In millions.

will be required in order to foot the bill,

thereby further diluting future gains.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 70 Earnings Predictability

dend if something doesn't give.

Andre J. Costanza

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